GUIDE to HEAVEN

From the

WORD:

OR,

GOOD COUNSEL

How to close savingly with

Christ.

ome Short but Serious Questions to ask our Hearts every Morning and Evening, whether we walk closely with him.

And especially, Rules for the strict and due Observation of the

LORD'S DAY.

Joh. 5. 39. *Search the Scriptures.*

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A Guide to Heaven

From the WORD, or Good Counsel how to Close savingly with Christ.

Twelve Rules to prepare you for closing with Christ.

1. WOrk your hearts unto a thorow and unfeigned belief of the Articles of the Faith; Believe certainly and firmly without the least doubt, that there is a great God, that Jesus Christ is his only and alone Saviour: that the Bible is the Word of God, that undoubtedly there is a place as Heaven and Hell, *Heb.* 11.6.

2. Really believe that you carry within your breast precious and immortal Souls; which must be adjudged by this God to one of those two places, there to be for ever and ever, *Mat.* 25.26. &c.

3. Assure your selves that the last Sentence will be past according to your well or ill behaving your selves in this life. Every man shall be rewarded according to his works, 2 *Cor.* 5. 10, 11.

[illegible] 3.10,11. *Eccles.* 2.11,12,13.

[illegible] upon it, that it is very difficult to [illegible] that Heaven, and that the way to de[illegible] broad and easie. Remember still [illegible] deceitful hearts within you, a wicked [illegible] high you, and snares and hindrances about and before you, *Mat*,7.13,14. *Luk*.13.24

Say my time is short, my work is great, and my strength is small.

5. Certainly believe it, that Heaven is so glorious, that it is worth all your care and pains be it never [illegible] and that Hell is so dreadful, that you [illegible] fly from it with all diligence, [illegible] and speed; that it is better you never had been born if you should die in your sins, and perish everlastingly; what a direful scriech will your Soul give if it goes out of your body into unquenchable Burning: *Heb* 11.14,16,2[illegible] *Pet*.1.4. 2 Cor.4.17,18. [illegible] *Cor*. 5.15.

6. Reckon that all the troubles of this world cannot make a man going to that Heaven in wayes of righteousness, miserable and wretched: How sweet will it be to pass, though out of a poor tottering Cottage, into a glorious Palace? Out of a Sea of troubles and dangers into an haven of Peace, Rest and Plenty? or can all the Riches, Honours, and Pleasures here make a man going to that Hell happy: What a terrible

Hell

Hell will Hell be to great ones, that
all their dayes in pleasure? it is
a Palace for the dark silent Grave? Jewels
Deckings for Worms and rottenness? But
what is it to have sweet singings
ter howlings? Deckt and glitter
sant Walks, rich Attire,
dark Dungeons, unquenchable
and Brimstone? *Mat.*
to 21.

7. Seriously think
and avoid the fearful
Hell. If I shall come
that I enjoy for ever
sed Arms and Bosome
if I should go to hell at
der the weight of Gods
there is hope, Gods heart,
and the Gate of Heaven, yet
would the damned in Hell
Worlds (if they had them)
ven, Grace, and Christ are offered, and dare I
refuse all? can I venture the loss of Soul and
Body for ever and ever? *Heb.* 13. 31.

8. If I miss of Glory, it will be my own fault
my damnation will lie at my own door: God
can clear himself of my blood; his proffers of
Grace are free and frequent, earnest and real;
and shall I murder my own Soul? *Acts.* 8. 32.

Heb.5.40. It may be written over my Grave, *Here is one that destroyed himself, that would go to Hell through mercies, judgements and warnings.*

9 Debate the case with your soul solemnly, what is there in sin, that I so much dote on? what are my greatest designs and projects in the World? Can I dig the Pearl of happiness out of this Dunghil World? can I get the Houses, Lands, Honours, Friends that I aim at; and if I should, what are they? Certainly conclude, the greatest wisdome is to be wise unto salvation; and my best work is to work it out with fear and trembling, lest I lose it, *Pro.* 3.13, 14, &c

10. Then search and try your hearts, whether you are in the Faith, and your hearts sound in Gods Statutes. Ask seriously, have I the love that is here, the faith that is sound, soul-saving, sin-killing, and life-reforming? Am I sure my face and heart are really set *Sion-ward*, and *Heaven* 2 Cor. 13.5.

To this end Query.

1. *Did I ever see sin odious, black, and hellish, defiling and damning? Have I seen it in the glass of the Law, bloody and killing? but in Christs blood, exceeding and above measure sinful?* Ro.7.13

2. *Do I see in Jesus Christ a beauty and excellency, a fulness and allsufficiency? is he the chiefest*

of ten thousands, altogether lovely in mine eye? can I say, Oh thousands of gold (if I had it) for an Interest in Christ's Blood, and cleansing, healing, peace speaking-blood: None but Christ: All is but dung, that I may win him, Phil 3.7,8.

11. Take it for granted, that there is no Name under Heaven whereby you can be saved, but Jesus Christ. All grace and mercy for this life, and that to come, must come to you through the channel of Christs Blood, *Act.* 16.30, 31. & 4.10, 11, 12. Say, by sin I have shut Heaven gate, and hardned Gods heart against me: I have laid my self open to all the wrath of God, all the curses in the Bible! and all the torments of hell: and if I could bring all the creatures of my self, and all my friends, the strength of Angels, the riches of all the world, it would be as nothing to make up this woful breach: Christ alone can do it.

12. Believe it, that Christ came to seek and to save such as we that were lost. That he is not only able but willing and ready to give forth his rich grace. What made him to leave his Fathers bosome, put off the Majestick Robes of his glory, but love to poor Souls? what made him drink the dreadful cup of his Fathers wrath make such loud calls, such rich profers, wait & send, be rejected and wait, cry earnestly and wait long, but love to sinners, *John* 6. 35, 37.

Twas love to Souls made him give up his body to be broken, that precious box of Ointment, which fills both Heaven and Earth with its sweet savour and pleasant perfumes. Having throughly weighed and believed these foregoing propositions: then come to Christ these thirteen ways.

Directions how to close with Christ.

1. COme to Christ, a poor, lost, and undone Wretch, hopeless and helpless? as to an only, able, and merciful Saviour. Cry out as one sinking under the Waves and boisterous Tempests of sin, *Master, save, or else I perish.* If thou wilt, thou canst, *Heb.* 7. 25. say with *Thomas, My Lord, and my God, my Christ, and my Saviour*, put the hand of thy Faith into Christs pierced and bleeding sides, *Joh.* 20. 27, 28. Say as they, *Joh.* 6. 68. Whither should I go but unto such a Saviour? thou hast eternal life. Thou canst help me out of the deep and miery ditch of my sins, and over the fiery and fearful gulf of Gods wrath, and canst bring me into the blessed presence, yea, into the gracious arms, bosom, and embraces of the God of glory. I stretch out the weak arms of my Faith to thee: O stretch out the strong arm of thy power and mercy, and come and save me.

2. Come as an humble, broken, and relenting sinner to an offended Majesty. Come trembling

bling with tears in your eyes, and deep ſorrow in your heart. Come as one vile in the ſight of God, your ſelf men and Angels. As the poor Publican, not worthy to look up to heaven, ſmite on thy wicked heart. As the Centurion ſay, *I am not worthy thou ſhouldeſt come under the roof of my heart.* As the Prodigal, *I have ſinned againſt Heaven, and am not worthy to be an hired Servant.* Yet there is mercy enough in my Fathers heart, and thy merits, *Iſai.* 9. 1. I have let fly many poyſonous Bullets, and bitter arrows of Sin againſt thee; I have by ſin fetcht (as it were) blood from thy precious heart afreſh, though it ran ſo freely and abundantly for my ſake; but now a ſight of thy pierced ſide breaks my heart with ſobs and ſighs. My ſins are now as ſo many pricks in my ſide, thorns at my heart, and ropes about my neck.

3. Come as a filthy, polluted, loathſome Creature, to a cleanſing Fountain of Grace. *Lazarus* in all his ſores, or *Job* on the Dung hill with his ſcabs and botches, were not ſo filthy and abominable in the eye of man, as I am through the running ſores and plagues of my heart and life, in the ſight of an holy and pure God. I am more vile then the Toad, then the ſtinking Carrion in the Ditch. How doth this filth ſtream through every duty and mercy, I drop the filthineſs of ſin wherever I go. Oh

waſh

wash, cleanse and purifie me in thy blood, *Joh.* 15.16,42. Unclean, unclean. Thy body was broken to let out thy blood for my sake, and shall not my heart be broken to let out the filth and gore of my sin?

4. Come as a bond-slave, drudge, and Vassal to Christ as to a Redeemer complain of the Devils cruel usage, and sins tyrannizing: Say, Lord, thou hast paid a price sufficient: Thou hast redeemed me by thy precious blood, that is more worth then ten thousand Worlds. Knock off these iron Fetters, rescue me out of this hellish Dungeon of sin. I have no command of my head, or heart, of my tongue or passions. How do lusts domineer! *Luk.* 4. 18. *Heb.* 2.14, 15. *Rom.* 12. 13,24. Here I lie staked down to the Earth by a carnal heart.

5. Come as a sin-sick Soul to Christ, as to the only able Physitian. As sick persons crying out of an aking head, or griping bowels: So complain, Oh the plague of an hard heart! the galls and gripes of a wounded conscience! the wounds and stabs I have given my Soul by sin! Here I am sick to the very heart, fainting and perishing. Oh a drop of thy blood, that is a cordial indeed, the soveraign Balm of *Gilead*. These many years, yea, all my life have *I* been diseased with the bloody issue of sin, and all others are Physitians of no value; but if I may

but

but touch the hem of thy righteous garment, *I* shall be whole, *Mat.* 9. 20, 21, 22. *I* come to thee with mine Ulcers and *I*mposthumes to be lanched, that the rotten members of my body of sin may be cut off.

6. Come weary and heavy laden with your sins to Christ for rest and ease, *Mat.* 11. 28, 29. Good *Paul* groaning under the weight of sin, makes many heavy heart-burning complaints, *Rom.* 7. 18, 19, 24. but yet in *ver.* 25. he triumphs in Christ: Holy *David*, restless and disquiet roars under sin, *Psal.* 38. 1, *to* 9. Those sins that were as jewels in your eye, yea, as your right hand or eye, are they now as Mill-stones and loads to your Soul.

7. Come as a poor, needy, and naked creature to Christ, as the poor to the rich Mans door for Alms. Come quite stript naked of your own righteousness, *Rev.* 3. 17, 18. cry out of your spiritual Poverty, Lord, not one penny of grace to help my self. Never a poorer wretch came to thee for mercy; Grace *I* want, if *I* perish it shall be at thy feet, begging and praying, I will not be thrust away from thy door, behold want of Faith, Patience, Love, &c. Not able to think or speak, to do, or suffer. Oh let the sweet gales of thy Spirit bring thy rich promises fraught with incomparable grace & comfort, to unlade their heavenly treasure into my bosome.

Give

Give me the Key of Faith, that I may unlock thy rich Store-house, and fetch what I want.

8. Come as an hunger-starv'd Soul for bread of life, thirsting and panting for Soul-refreshing grace, *Isai.* 55. Beg, cry out, Bread, Bread. In some Countries through great want they cry, give, and cut me, (holding out their arm) give and kill me. Cry, give Lord, and strike me, give me heavenly food, and do what thou wilt with me: Say Lord, if but as a Dog, I may receive crumbs that fall from thy full table of Grace. Thirst and behold in every bleeding deep wound of Christ a fountain of rich flowing mercy. Each heavenly promise steept in that sweet blood of Christ by Faith can afford a full satisfying meal of joy and comfort to thy pining hunger-bitten soul. Apply the lips of thy Faith to these full breasts, to those over, overflowing wells of Salvation. Say, Lord open those precious Boxes of Ointment, and sprinkle them on my dead, barren, parched, thirst heart. May I have but bread, but a drop, it will be as a refreshing Cordial; how sweet then will a feast of fat things be, wine on the Lees.

9. Come as a foolish, ignorant, and backward Scholar to Christ, as to a great Prophet, or School master. Say, Lord, it is thou must teach me, or I shall never learn: I am dull to understand, but thou canst and dost teach thy people

people to profit: Lord, that I may receive my spiritual eye-sight: Thou hast many an heavenly Lesson to teach, as Faith, Patience, Self denial, &c. I am come to be thy Disciple, I have a long time been under the teachings of thy Spirit. Thou art meek and not harsh, *Mat.* 11. 29

10. Come as an unskilful, trembling Souldier, as a weak *David* strugling with Bears, Lions, and *Goliah*, with Principalities and Powers. Come to Christ as the Captain of your Salvation; say, Lord, it is thou must teach my hands to war, and my fingers to fight. It is thou must fight my Battles for me, or I shall fall by the hands of these strong & towring Lusts. What batteries, assaults, and storms doth Satan raise against my Soul! *Heb.* 2. 10. *Eph.* 6. 12.

11. Come as a condemned Malefactor and lost Prisoner to Christ, as to your Advocate and Intercessour: lay open your bad Cause and sad Estate.

1. Your crimes are great and fearful, horrid Treason, and that against the highest Majesty. 2. Your accusers and adversaries many, subtil, diligent and cruel. The Devil, your own heart and acquaintance can bring in black bills against you. 3. The Law of God condemns you, and your doom is dreadful. 4. The great God your judge, is highly incensed, affronted and dishonoured. Now apply your self to

Christ, who has undertook as bad causes: say, Lord, stand between the flaming fire, and revenging sword of Gods wrath and my poor Soul, 1 *Tim.* 2. 5.

12. Come as a willing Servant to a good Master, as a loyal Subject to your only Lord and Soveraign, to obey, honour and love him above all others, and that to the death, say, here I am, what wilt thou have me to do? Here is my head to know thee, my heart to love thee, my tongue to praise thee, mine ears to hear thy voice, and mine hands and feet to do thy will. Other Lords besides thee have ruled over me. But thou art my only Saviour and Prince, *Act.* 5. 30, 31. *Heb.* 5. 9. I dislike none of thy commands, they are righteous, good and reasonable; but I find fault with mine own wretched heart, that I can no more heartily love, and readily obey them. Say, thy work is as *Adam's* was in Paradise, a pleasure and not a toyl; as the Bee labouring, sucks honey and sweetness, 1 *Joh.* 5. 8. What sweet, soul ravishing work will my heart make of praying, hearing, and meditation, &c. when thou streamest forth thy graces, those blessed silver drops of heaven into every vein of my Soul.

13. Come as a poor worthless Spouse to Christ, as to an honourable and glorious Husband, come both for thy Wedding Garment and

and matchleſs portion. Come as *Abigail* to *David*, 1 *Sam.* 25. 41, 42. Say, Lord, here I am meanly, yea, vilely deſcended, by ſin a child of Satan, and thou art the Lord from Heaven. Enoble me with thy grace, which is divine and heavenly blood, far above the heroical blood of Anceſtors. Here I am ragged, decrepit, and deformed through ſin: cover my filth and nakedneſs with thy white, ſpotleſs Garment, that my ſhame appear not. What is plaiting the hair, decking a filthy ſlimy carkaſs, to the adorning the Soul with invaluable grace! Every grace of thine is a rich Diamond, a Pearl, yea far above. The ſoul fill'd with God, is a little Heaven on Earth; and theſe graces are the beſpangling Stars and glittering Lamps thereof. Read that notable Deſcription, *Ezek.* 16. 3. to 14. Theſe rich Ornaments, this Crown not of gold but of grace and glory, none but Chriſt's Bride wears. Every morning ſet your ſelf ſolemnly as in the preſence of God Omniſcient, and charge your heart to give in a true anſwer to theſe enquiries, as it will account for theſe and many other things at the day of Judgement before all the World.

Serious Questions to put to our Souls every Morning.

Quest. 1. *HOW did I lie down and rise up? was God in my thoughts? and if so, were the thoughts of him sweet and precious to my Soul,* Psal. 139 2,3,4. & 92.1,2.

2. *In what frame is my heart at present? do I admire Gods goodness for the last nights sleep, for adding more time to my life: and am I heartily thankful,* Prov. 3.24.

3. *Can I really commit all my affairs to God this day, to be guided by his Counsel, protected and provided for by his care, and to be willing to be at his dispose?* Mat. 5.25. &c. 1 Pet. 5.7. Psa. 37.4.

4. *Am I resolved to speak for God and his glory, whatever it cost me? in the strength of Christ I will not be terrified from, be ashamed of, or grow weary in well doing?* Mark 8.38.

5. *Am I a Child of God, an Heir of Glory? or a slave to sin, and a child of Satan? if I am Gods child, must I not wear the glorious garment of Christ's Righteousness, that royal, sparkling Livery of Heaven? if an heir of Heaven, should I not cast off the Rags of Corruption, and take heed of defiling my self with the mire of sin?* Deu. 5.32 Judg. 23. *What should I do more then others,* Mat. 5.47.

6. *Who*

6. *Who is the greateſt deceiver? if my heart, let me not truſt, but watch over it all this day; wherein are the greateſt dangers, the moſt horrid and woful miſtakes? if about mens Souls, let me venture the loſs of all rather then of my precious never dying Soul*, Jer. 17, 3. 13.

7. *What are mine implacable, potent, and Soul-ruining Enemies, but the Fleſh, the Devil and the World? let me not pamper the one, hearken to the ſecond, or idolize the third; let me beware of them, watch and be ſober*, Rom. 8. 8. *&c.* Gal. 5. 17. 19. 1 Pet. 5. 8. Jam. 4. 4. 1 Joh. 2. 15.

8. *VVho is and can be my beſt Friend, but God? let me take care in all things to pleaſe him, fear of provoking him. Let me love him with all my heart, obey him with all my might, and honour him throughout all the day*, Pſal. 144. 15.

9. *VVherein is the greateſt vanity and vexation but in the world? Let me then ſlight, and not admire and adore it. VVhat is the ſure gain and moſt laſting good? Certainly Godlineſs, let me then prize, preſs after, and live in it*, Eccleſ. 1. 2. 1 Tim. 4. 8. Chap. 6. 6, 7.

10. *VVhat is my heavenly work, but to run a race, fight a good fight, ſtrive and wreſtle? Can this be without care, diligence and watchfulneſs?* 1 Cor. 9. 24. *O that a vein of Religion might run thorow all I do this day!*

11. *VVhoſe eyes will be upon me all this day to*

observe head and heart, lip and life? Will not God's the Judge of all the Earth? and dare I sin in his presence? dare I so highly affront him to his face? Heb. 4. 13. Gen. 39. 9.

12. *If I should spend this day in vanity, sin and idleness, will it not be bitterness and sorrow at night? if I spend it holily and profitably, shall I not pray with more confidence, and lie down with the more peace? will not the testimony of a good Conscience be ground of great rejoycing?* Psal. 4. 7, 8. 2 Cor. 1. 12.

13. *How would I have this day represented at the great day of Judgement? what words, thoughts and actions, would I have then brought forth? let mine be such; for certainly all must then be laid open,* 2 Tim. 6. 11, 12, 17, 18, 19. Eccl. 11. 8.

14. *How may I this day order my secular business, with most wisdome and honesty, and for my greater advantage?* Psal. 1. 12, 5,

15. *Am I fit now to pour out my self to God in Prayer? can I first and chiefest seek the Kingdome of God?* Mat. 6. 33. Psal 52. 3.

Separate your self every evening from all Company, and ask your heart these Questions: And wherein you have been guilty, be heartily sorrowful, and beg pardon: and wherein God has enabled you to be in any measure faithful, bless God and be thankful.

Every

Every Evening ask these Questions.

1. WHat have I done this day for God & his glory? what can I look back upon with comfort, *Mic* 6.8.

2. In what frame hath mine heart been all this day? what have I desired most, heavenly or earthly things? hath my joy been more in God, and hope of glory, then in riches, honours, *&c*? was my grief most for sin, or for troubles? what have I suckt comfort from and lived upon; creatures the Cistern, or God the Fountain? *Jer.* 2. 12, 13. *Heb.* 3. 17, 18.

3. What were my aims and ends, in what I went about? have I been sincere and exercised a good conscience towards God and Men? did I eat and drink, pray and discourse with an eye to Gods glory, or rather did self sit uppermost in all? 1 *Cor.* 10. 31. 1 *Pet.* 4. 11.

4 What spiritual duties have I performed this day? did I regard the manner as well as the matter? out of conscience did I do them, and not out of custome? did I pray fervently, read with care and observation, meditate so seriously as thorowly to affect the heart? *Rom.* 12. 11. 1 *Tim.* 5 13. *Prov* 10. 4. 1 *Thes.* 4. 11.

6. What have been my company this day? what good have I done to them, or re-

ceived from them? did I reprove, exhort, strengthen, encourage, comfort, or warn, as occasion was given, and need required? *Col.* 4. 9. *Heb.*10.24,25.

7. How have I born the troubles and crosses of the day? did I not murmure, vex, nor sink? did I not entertain hard thoughts of, nor utter rash words against God? *Phil.*4:11,12.

8. What were my Temptations this day, and what my sins? was I not easily drawn into sin? little over-awed or restrained by Gods all-seeing eye, merciful heart, or revenging hand? was I not soon proud, angry, *&c.* did I not long continue in it, and have I yet thorowly repented of it? what conviction, or mercy, or warning did I sin against, *Isai.*5.9.12,13. *Jer.*1.6.

9. What were my mercies this day, and how was my heart under them? was I affected with Gods goodness, and unfeignedly thankful, and therefore cheerfully fruitful in good works? Have I prized my health, friends and estates, &c. *Eph.*5.20.

10. What have I learnt this day? what more heart-affecting knowledge have I got of God and his glory, of my self and my sins: of this world and that to come? *Phil.*1.9. 2 *Pet.*3.18. *Col.*1.9,10.

11. What of Gods Word have I remembred or read, repeated, or heard this day? was any Scri-

Scripture sweet and good to my Soul? What promise did I by Faith make mine own? what particular comfort did in any thing sway and rule me, 2 *Tim.*3.15,16, 17.

12. What graces have I especially exercised? have I lived by Faith, loved God with all my heart and soul? denied my self in any thing dear to me for God? 2 *Pet.*1.6.

13. Have I this day lived upon, loved honoured and reverenced God the Father, as my Sun, Shield and Portion? have I this day prized, owned, and made use of Christ as my Saviour, Intercessour and Friend; as my Root, Head and Husband? hath the Holy Ghost been to me a director or comforter, a quickner or confirmer? have I cherished and not quenched its motions? *Psal.*84.11.

14. Have I been affected with the evils of sin or misery of others, of Nation, Parish and Family, of Friends or Foes? have I had a pitiful heart, or bountiful hand to any in want? *Psal.* 119.106. *Jam.*2.15,16.

15. Have I shewn more especial love and pity to those that are of the houshold of Faith? how have I honoured those that fear the Lord? *Psal.*15.4. & 163. Hath a godly *Job* or *Lazarus*, though in rags and sores, been unto me as an orient Pearl on a Dung-hill? have *I* not valued men more according to greatness then goodness? *Gal.*6.10.

16. Did the Church of God and interest of Christ ly near my heart this day, have *I* heartily prayed for the welfare of *Sion*? and mourned when its songs are turned into lamentation, and its glory into desolation? Do I prefer *Jerusalem* above my chief joy? *Jer.*19.1,

17. Can my Family witness that *I* have done any good for or to them? can those that best know me, speak best for me? have I been good as Husband or Wife? *Psal.* 102.2. *&c.* as Parent or Child, as Master or Servant, *Eph.* 6.25. *&c.*

18. Have *I* wronged no man in his Estate, by over-reaching him; in his Name by slandering, or back-biting, 1 *Thes.*4.6. in his Soul or body, by letting him fall into, or live in any sin or trouble, have I done to others, as I would they should do to me? *Mat.*7.12.

19. Have I forgiven mine Enemies, rejoyced at others mercies, and not envied any ones honour, riches or friends and coveted them? *Luk.* 6 27, to 35. *Mat*, 6. 12 14, 15.

20. Am I of a quiet, peaceable Spirit? have I not quarrelled and contended with my Neighbours? or do I make up breaches, and follow peace with all men? do I honour the King, and obey Governours for conscience sake, *Rom.* 12. 18. & 13. 1.

21. Hath my cloathing been suitable to my place and station? hath my carriage been so-

ber, discreet and serious? have I not been vain wanton, nor frothy in my discourse or Spirit? 1 *Pit.*3,3,4. *Tit.* 2.1, *&c.*

22. Have I scorned and contemned the glory of the world, accounting it but dirt for Grace and dross for Christ? 1 *Joh.*5.4,5.

23. Have I really set death before me? My life is as a vapour a shadow? if I should die daily what a preparation have I made for it? am I sure, but this is my last night? If God should shut mine eyes by death, how is it like to be with my Soul? dare I lye down with the guilt or filth of any one sin? is there any returning from the Grave to amend? no certainly, 2 *Cor.*4.14,16. 1 *Cor.*15.54, *&c. Prov.*27.1.

23. Can I tell how great the day of Judgement will be? how glorious and terrible? and dare I meet Christ coming in flaming fire, with ten thousand of my sins to take vengeance? can I hold up my head? are my graces sound, and of the right kind? All is not gold that glisters. Have I this day searcht, judged and condemned my self, 1 *Cor.*11.31. 2 *Cor.* 5.10, 11. 2 *Thess.* 8,9,10.

25. Do I believe Hell torments dreadful and eternal: Its flames unspeakable scorching? its misery endless and easeless? and do I not fly from this wrath to come? *Rev.*14.10,11.

26. Have I ascended in the triumphant Cha-

Chariot of Faith this day, and beheld the new *Jerusalem*, Gods glorious Palace? did I live, love, think, talk as an Heir of this Kingdome, *Eph.* 1.18,19.

27. Have I not in all I have done, minded man more then God? have I not minded only the cleansing the out side? *Eph.* 6.5,6.

28. Dare *I* lie down this night without praying earnestly to God for the pardon of my sins, the blessings of the night, and the salvation of my Soul.

Directions for the strict Observation of the LORDS DAY.

For Preparation.

1. ORder all your week business so wisely before hand, that you may have no unnecessary work on Gods day; that your hands may be as free as possible from worldly work, and your head from worldly cares & thoughts, Exod. 20.8,9,10,11.

2. Think seriously what a weighty work am I going about! my week affairs are but Toys and Trifles to this. What are Sheep and Oxen, or Shops, to Grace, Christ, or Heaven? Can I be too careful and serious in Gods work, in Soul salvation work? Surely no. How holy

should

ſhould my thoughts be, how heavenly my diſcourſe, how earneſt my endeavours all the day long, *Iſai.* 58. 13, 14.

3. Therefore prepare with all your might, ſearch your hearts and lives, 1 *Chron.* 29. 1, 2.

1. Find out what your ſins are, to confeſs, mourn over, and pray againſt, *Lam.* 3. 20.

2. What the mercies are you want for Soul or Body, for your Friends, Families, and Nation; account this day a Market day for your Souls, *Rev.* 3. 17, 18.

3. What bleſſings received, and what thanks to be returned, *Pſal.* 116. 12.

4. Think with your ſelf, what good did *I* get by former, yea by the laſt Sabbath? was my heart then broken or warmed with love to God, and the like? what did *I* then learn, and how have *I* practiſed it in the week? have *I* fully digeſted by meditation, firmly believed, and faithfully obeyed the truths that were laſt taught me? *Iſai.* 1. 11. *&c.*

5. Beg earneſtly of God that he would help you to ſanctifie a Sabbath, that this may be the beſt Sabbath you ever kept; that your heart may be more tender, humble and heavenly: that the out-goings of thy ſoul may be more free, ſtrong and fixed, and the incomes of heavenly grace and comfort more abundant; that God may reap more glory, and you receive

more

more good than ever heretofore. That the holy keeping of this Sabbath, may be an earnest to you of keeping a never never ending Sabbath with God in glory.

To this end pray especially for these 4 things.

1. That God may prepare a suitable word for your Soul, that the Ministers mouth may be opened, and his heart enlarged, and his message full of goodness; that it may be the pure, plain, and powerful Word of God, *Eph.* 6. 18, 19.

2. That God would fill his own Ordinances with his own presence and blessing: that he would touch your heart, when man speaks to the ear; drop, yea stream down heavenly grace through these Conduit pipes, *Isai.* 48. 17. *Luk.* 16. 14.

3. That you may have the hearing Ear, the seeing Eye, and the understanding Heart; that you may be teachable, willing to learn, and apt to receive what God delivers, *Jam.* 1. 21, 22. *Psal.* 110 3.

4. That your Souls Enemies may be kept off, at least resisted and kept down. That your hearts may not deceive you, the Devil divert you, nor the world distract or disturb you.

Having thus in some measure prepared your hearts for the solemn work of this great day; observe and practise these following directions, as ever you hope to have the blessing of the Sabbath.

1. As

. As ſoon as you awake fix your hearts
eyes heaven ward; bleſs God that you ſee
he light of one day more, eſpecially Gods day;
wherein you may labour to have your ſins par-
doned and purged, and your Souls furniſht with
grace, and ſo fitted for glory. Call the Sab-
bath your delight, *Pſal.* 118.23,24. *Pſal.* 59.16.

2. Beg heartily of God, that he would ſtrengthen you by his grace, to do what he re-quires, as he would have it done, that he would pardon your unpreparedneſs, bear with your infirmities, accept of your poor ſervices, and crown all with his bleſſing, 2 *Chr.* 30.18,19,20.

3. That you be fitted for the holy and hea-venly work of the day; affect your heart with ſome or all of theſe ten following things:

1. With the Majeſty of that God, whom you are to wait upon, *Pſal.* 95.2,3. *&c.*

2. With the vileneſs of ſin, and of your ſelves becauſe of ſin.

3. With the ſweetneſs of Chriſt, and the greatneſs of his love and mercy.

4. With the excellency of that heavenly work you are going about, and the gain of god-lineſs.

5. With the vanity of the World and all things therein.

6. With the worth and high value of your immortal Soul's.

7. With

7. With the rage, subtilty, and diligence of your souls Enemies.

8. Especially with the deceitfulness of your own hearts.

9. With the terrour and torment of Hell.

10. With the unspeakable and everlasting glory of Heaven.

4. Carefully and conscientiously perform Family Duties, *Josh.* 24. 15.

1. See that your Servants, and Children of age, waste not away the morning in sleep or idleness.

2. Cause them to joyn together in Prayer, Reading, or any other godly Exercise, *Gen.* 18. 19.

3. If you have time, you may Catechise them, or discourse to them of any of those former ten things, *Deut.* 6, 6, 7.

1. Inform your selves and them, what a great and glorious Majesty and Master you are to serve, *Mal.* 1. 14.

2. What a blessed and heavenly work you go about, that it is heart-work, *Joh.* 4. 24. and therefore hard and difficult work, and yet that it is pleasant and excellent, *Prov.* 3. 17. *Chap.* 8 34, 35. Oh the fatness of Gods house and the beauty of holiness!

3. What an abundant and unspeakable reward attends the well-doing, even life everlast-